

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

---

- 131
1. (Original) A method of operating a gaming machine, comprising:  
monitoring a number of wager inputs from players of said gaming machine; and  
altering a visual motif of said gaming machine in response to said number being a certain value.
  2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of monitoring includes monitoring wager inputs over a period of time and while a variety of different visual motifs are being displayed, and determining which of said variety of different visual motifs is a favorite motif, said favorite motif having a largest number of wager inputs as compared to other ones of said variety of visual different motifs, said certain value is said number of wager inputs, said altering includes displaying said favorite motif on said gaming machine.
  3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said certain value is a fixed value such that said step of altering occurs at a constant frequency.
  4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said certain value is every 25 plays of said gaming machine.

Cont  
B1  
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of altering includes altering background visual elements.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said background visual elements include a series of cyclical motifs, said step of altering includes consecutively switching between ones of said series of cyclical motifs.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said series of cyclical motifs are motifs of the seasons of the year.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said series of cyclical motifs are a day motif and a night motif.

9-16. (Withdrawn)

17. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a gaming machine, comprising:  
storing a plurality of data sets for producing a plurality of different types of visual motifs  
on a display of said gaming machine;  
displaying a first one of said plurality of different types of visual motifs on a display of  
said gaming machine in response to a wager input;  
monitoring a number of wager inputs from players of said gaming machine;  
discontinuing said displaying of said first one of said plurality of different types of visual  
motifs based on the number of wager inputs; and

cont  
B1

displaying a second one of said plurality of different types of visual motifs on said display of said gaming machine ~~based on the use of said gaming machine by~~ players.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further including sequentially displaying additional ones of said plurality of different types of visual motifs.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further including displaying said first one of said plurality of different types of visual motifs after said step of sequentially displaying additional ones of said plurality of different types of visual motifs, such that said displaying of said plurality of different types of visual motifs is cyclical.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said step of displaying said second one occurs after a predetermined number of plays by said players.

21. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said step of displaying said second one occurs after determining a favorite visual motif of a variety of visual motifs to be displayed by monitoring inputs from said players.

22-23. (Withdrawn)

- cont  
B1
24. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine, comprising:
- a processor for randomly selecting one of a plurality of outcomes of said gaming machine in response to a wager from a player, said processor monitoring a number of wager inputs ~~plays~~ from players;
- a display for displaying visual elements; and
- a memory device coupled to said processor and storing at least two data sets for producing at least two different types of said visual elements, said processor selecting one of said at least two data sets in response to the number of said wager inputs meeting certain criteria.
25. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 24, wherein said certain criteria is a predetermined number of said plays from said players.
26. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 24, wherein said certain criteria includes a determination of a favorite visual motif of said at least two different types of said visual elements as correlated to a number of plays by said players.
-